

WE CLAIM:

1. A cord apparatus comprising:
a cord locking system including a locking mechanism and a rotating portion;
a housing for holding the locking mechanism and the rotating portion; and
a cord having a first end disposed within the housing between the locking mechanism and the rotating portion, wherein the cord is releasable from the housing when a force is applied to the cord, the force causing the locking mechanism to release from a first position and allow the cord to pass between the rotating portion and the locking mechanism.
2. The cord apparatus of claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism includes a spring portion and a releasable bar disposed in a recess in the housing.
3. The cord apparatus of claim 2, wherein the releasable bar moves from the first position in the recess of the housing to a second position in the recess of the housing when the force is applied to the cord.
4. A breakaway apparatus for a cord in a window treatment, comprising:
a breakaway end portion having a housing, at least one recessed track, and a stop portion movable along the at least one recessed track within the housing; and
a cord having a first end, the breakaway end portion disposed on the first end of the cord, wherein the at least one recessed track of the breakaway end portion allows the cord to separate from the housing as the stop portion moves along the at least one recessed track when a downward force is applied to the cord.
5. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a grooved track.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the stop portion is grooved to move along the grooved track within the housing.
7. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of recessed tracks, the stop portion having a plurality of elongated extension members disposed within the

plurality of recessed tracks for moving the stop portion along the plurality of recessed tracks.

8. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the first end of the cord is held within the housing by stop portion.

9. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the stop portion fits tightly with the grooved track near a first portion of the housing, and wherein the stop portion fits loosely with the grooved track when the stop portion is near a second portion of the housing.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein when a force is applied to the cord, the cord pulls the stop portion along the plurality of recessed tracks and the grooved track towards the second portion of the housing.

11. A method of providing a breakaway apparatus for a cord in a window treatment, comprising:

providing a cord having a first end and a breakaway end portion having at least one recessed track, a stop portion, and a housing, the breakaway end portion disposed on the first end of the cord, wherein the first end is held within the housing by the stop portion; and

allowing the breakaway end portion to separate from the first end of the cord when a downward force is applied to the cord.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising providing a grooved track within the housing.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the stop portion is grooved to move along the grooved track within the housing.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising providing a plurality of recessed tracks within the housing.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising providing a plurality of elongated extension members on the stop portion and disposed within the plurality of recessed tracks for moving the stop portion along the plurality of recessed tracks.

16. A method of providing a cord apparatus comprising:

providing a cord, a locking mechanism, a rotating portion, and a housing for holding the locking mechanism and the rotating portion; and

allowing the cord to be releasable from the housing when force is applied to the cord, the force causing the locking mechanism to release from a locked position and allow the cord to pass between the rotating portion and the locking mechanism.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the locking mechanism moves to an unlocked position when a force is applied to the cord.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the housing includes a recess, the locking mechanism being positioned within the recess and moving from the locked position to the unlocked position within the recess.

19. A window treatment apparatus comprising:

a window covering portion;

a headrail portion;

a cord;

a cord locking system disposed inside the headrail portion and including a locking mechanism, a rotating portion, and housing having a top portion extending out of the headrail portion and forming a first receptive member, the cord locking system releasably locking a first cord portion of the cord inside the headrail portion, wherein a force applied to the first cord portion causes the locking mechanism to release from a locked position and allow the first cord portion to pass between the locking mechanism and the rotating portion; and

a first connective member having a first end releasably insertable into the first receptive member and a second end connected to a second cord portion of the cord,

the first connective member releasing from the first receptive member when a force is applied to the cord portion.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a pulley mechanism disposed within the headrail portion.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the pulley mechanism includes a rotating member and housing forming a second receptive member.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising providing a second connective member having a first end releasably insertable into the second receptive member and a second end connected to a third cord portion of the cord, the second connective member releasing from the second receptive member when a force is applied to the third cord portion.

23. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a breakaway end portion disposed on a fourth cord portion of the cord.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the breakaway end portion includes a housing, at least one recessed track, and a stop portion movable along the at least one recessed track within the housing.

25. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first receptive member includes a recess disposed within the first receptive member, and wherein the first connective member is releasably insertable into the recess.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the second receptive member includes a recess disposed within the second receptive member, and wherein the second connective member is releasably insertable into the recess.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the first and second connective members are deformable.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the first and second connective members each include a semi-arcuate section and a linear section having two elongate pieces, the two elongate pieces releasably inserting into the recess of one of the first and second receptive members.

29. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the locking mechanism includes a spring portion and a releasable bar disposed in a recess in the housing.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the releasable bar moves from the first position in the recess of the housing to a second position in the recess of the housing when the force is applied to the cord.

31. A method of providing a cord safety apparatus for a window treatment, comprising:

providing a window treatment having a covering, a headrail portion, and a cord having a plurality of cord portions;

providing a releasable cord connection system including at least one receptive member and at least one a connective member releasably insertable into the at least one receptive member, the at least one connective member being coupled to a first cord portion of the cord and being releasable from the at least one receptive member when a force is applied to the first cord portion;

providing a locking mechanism and a rotating portion disposed inside the headrail portion, and a second cord portion of the cord disposed inside the headrail portion between the locking mechanism and the rotating portion;

releasing the locking mechanism from a first position to a second position when a force is applied to the second cord portion; and

providing a breakaway end portion disposed on a third cord portion of the cord and releasable from the third cord portion when the force is applied to the third cord portion.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one receptive member is formed in a housing holding the locking mechanism and rotating portion inside the

headrail portion, the at least one receptive member extending out of the headrail portion through a slot in the headrail portion.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising providing a pulley mechanism disposed inside the headrail.

34. The method of claim 33, further comprising providing an additional receptive member and an additional connective member releasably insertable into the additional receptive member, the additional connective member being coupled to a fourth cord portion of the cord and being releasable from the additional receptive member when a force is applied to the fourth cord portion of the cord.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the additional receptive member is formed in the housing holding the pulley mechanism inside the headrail, the additional receptive member extending out from the headrail portion through a slot in the headrail portion.

36. The method of claim 31, wherein the breakaway end portion includes a housing, at least one recessed track, and a stop portion movable along the at least one recessed track within the housing.

37. The method of claim 31, wherein the locking mechanism moves between the first position and the second position within a recess inside the housing.

38. The method of claim 35, wherein the at least one receptive member includes a recess disposed within the at least one receptive member, and wherein the at least one connective member is releasably insertable into the recess.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the additional receptive member includes a recess disposed within the additional receptive member, and wherein the additional connective member includes a first end releasably insertable into the recess of the additional receptive member.

40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the at least one connective member and the additional connective member are deformable.

41. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the at least one connective member and the additional connective member each include a semi-arcuate section and a linear section having two elongate pieces, the two elongate pieces releasably inserting into the recess of the at least one receptive member and the additional receptive member.

42. The cord apparatus of claim 31, wherein the locking mechanism includes a spring portion and a releasable bar disposed in a recess in the housing.

43. The cord apparatus of claim 32, wherein the releasable bar moves from the first position in the recess of the housing to a second position in the recess of the housing when the force is applied to the cord.

44. A window treatment apparatus comprising:

a window covering portion;

a headrail portion;

a cord;

a plurality of cord safety devices, including

a cord locking system disposed within the headrail portion and including a locking mechanism, a rotating portion, and a housing having a top portion, the cord locking system releasably locking a first cord portion of the cord inside the headrail portion, wherein a force applied to the first cord portion causes the locking mechanism to release from a locked position and allow the first cord portion to pass between the locking mechanism and the rotating portion;

a pulley mechanism disposed within the headrail portion and having a rotating member and a housing including a top portion;

a releasable cord connection system including a plurality of connective members, each connective member having a first end, wherein the first end of one connective member is releasably insertable into the top portion of the housing of the cord locking system, and wherein the first end of another connective member is releasably insertable

into the top portion of the housing of the pulley mechanism, each connective member also including a second end coupled to a second cord portion and third cord portion, respectively, the connective members being releasable from the top portions when a force is applied to the second and third cord portions; and

a breakaway end portion releasably disposed on a fourth cord portion, wherein the breakaway end portion includes a stop portion and a grooved track, the fourth cord portion being releasably disposed between the stop portion and the grooved track.